WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing method for editing multimedia content including metadata, the method comprising:

a receiving step of receiving operation information about an editing operation; and

a determining step of determining whether or not the metadata is usable for the edited multimedia content in accordance with the operation information and a property of the metadata in which a change in the reliability of the metadata due to the editing operation is written.

2. An information processing method according to Claim 1, further comprising an adding step of adding the metadata to the edited multimedia content if the metadata is determined to be usable by the determining step.

3. An information processing method for editing multimedia content including metadata, the method comprising:

a receiving step of receiving operation information about an editing operation; and

an adding step of adding the operation information, as an operation record, to a property of the metadata in which

a change in the reliability of the metadata due to the editing operation is written.

4.   An information processing method according to Claim 3, further comprising:

a reading step of reading the property of the metadata; and

a determining step of determining whether or not the metadata is usable for the edited multimedia content in accordance with the operation information about the editing operation and the read property of the metadata, wherein

if the metadata is determined to be usable, the metadata is added to the edited multimedia content.

5.   An information processing method for retrieving predetermined metadata in multimedia content including metadata, the method comprising:

a retrieving step of retrieving the predetermined metadata in the multimedia content in accordance with predetermined retrieval conditions;

a reading step of reading a property of the retrieved metadata in which a change in the reliability of the retrieved metadata due to a predetermined operation is written;

a calculating step of calculating the reliability of

the retrieved metadata in accordance with an operation record and the change in the reliability written in the property of the retrieved metadata; and

an outputting step of outputting, as a retrieval result, metadata with a reliability greater than or equal to a predetermined reliability.

6.   An information processing apparatus for editing multimedia content including metadata, the apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving operation information about an editing operation; and

determining means for determining whether or not the metadata is usable for the edited multimedia content in accordance with the operation information about the editing operation and a property of the metadata in which a change in the reliability of the metadata due to the editing operation is written.

7.   An information processing apparatus for editing multimedia content including metadata, the apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving operation information about an editing operation; and

adding means for adding the operation information as an

operation record to a property of the metadata in which a change in the reliability of the metadata due to the editing operation is written.

8.   An information processing apparatus for retrieving predetermined metadata in multimedia content including metadata, the apparatus comprising:

retrieving means for retrieving the predetermined metadata in the multimedia content in accordance with predetermined retrieval conditions;

reading means for reading a property of the retrieved metadata in which a change in the reliability of the retrieved metadata due to a predetermined operation is written;

calculating means for calculating the reliability of the retrieved metadata in accordance with an operation record and the change in the reliability written in the property of the retrieved metadata; and

outputting means for outputting, as a retrieval result, metadata with a reliability greater than or equal to a predetermined reliability.

9.   A control program for causing a computer to execute the information processing method as set forth in any one of the Claims 1 to 5.